

KENT SHARED LIVES

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(24) Matching

It is the policy of Kent Shared Lives to ensure that the Shared Lives host has the skills and abilities to meet the needs, requirements and aspirations of the prospective individual through the use of a comprehensive and transparent matching procedure. The matching procedure is also intended to ensure a placement that is fulfilling for both parties.

1. Shared Lives will ensure that the information upon which any matching decision is made is current, complete and relevant.
2. Shared Lives will support the Shared Lives host and the prospective individual to participate fully in any matching decision.
3. Shared Lives will ensure that Shared Lives hosts and the prospective individual understand the matching process and that the process may be halted at any point without fear of criticism or recrimination.
4. Shared Lives will gather current, complete and relevant information about the individual and host, prior to the start of the matching process.
 - 4.1 The individual needs assessment, their care and support plan and the Shared Lives host assessment are key documents that will inform this process.
 - 4.2 The Shared Lives host assessment should include a profile of the Shared Lives host and their household, in an accessible format, that can be given to a prospective individual.
 - 4.3 The Shared Lives worker should spend time with the prospective individual, their family and/or representative and their care manager/ care coordinator discussing their needs and hopes for any placement. Information gained from this will be taken account of in the matching process.
5. The matching procedure should consider the following areas:
 - 5.1 The ages of the Shared Lives host and prospective individual
 - 5.2 Any gender preferences or requirements
 - 5.3 The cultural backgrounds of both Shared Lives host and the prospective individual
 - 5.4 The personal interests of both the Shared Lives host and the individual

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- 5.5 The skills, experience and knowledge of the Shared Lives host and the support needs (including communication needs) of the individual
- 5.6 The location of the Shared Lives host's home and the type of accommodation and facilities provided in the light of any expressed preferences or needs of the individual
- 5.7 The type of household and lifestyle of the Shared Lives host and the preferred lifestyle of the prospective individual
- 5.8 The spiritual and philosophical beliefs of both the Shared Lives host and the prospective individual (including the degree of involvement in a formal religion; the impact of religious beliefs on other areas e.g.: sexual activity outside marriage)
6. Shared Lives will carry out an initial 'matching' on the basis of the information gathered. Following this initial matching, Shared Lives will provide information in accessible formats about possible Shared Lives hosts to the prospective individual and written information about the prospective individual to the possible Shared Lives hosts.
7. Shared Lives will liaise with the possible Shared Lives hosts, the prospective individual, their family and/or representative and their care manager/care coordinator in planning initial introductory meetings to selected Shared Lives hosts.
8. Following an introductory meeting, Shared Lives will meet independently with the Shared Lives hosts and with the individual, their family and/or representative and their care manager/care coordinator. Shared Lives will ensure that the individual is supported to make an informed decision about any possible placement and that further introductions are planned at a frequency and level that meet both the individual's and the Shared Lives hosts' needs.
9. Where there is a need for an emergency placement the matching procedure may not be able to be followed. In that situation, Shared Lives will follow its policy on emergency placements. (See policy and procedure on Emergency Placements)
10. Funding matching visits
 - Shared Lives will pay up to 4 nights and 5 days of individual/host matching visits, to a total cost of £200.
 - Any additional matching will need to be negotiated with the referring team.

Day session	
0-6 hours - 1 session (£10)	
Over 6 hours - second session (£10)	Total £20 per day

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Night sessions

£30 (up to 4 nights) - 9pm to 9am
